

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

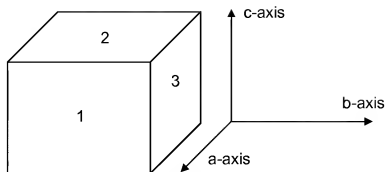
Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND Claims 1 and 7.

Applicants' counsel greatly appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the Personal Interview of July 17, 2006. As indicated in the Interview Summary, during the Personal Interview, the Examiner alleged that Applicants' arguments concerning the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of Claim 7 were unpersuasive, and admitted that each of the features of Claim 7 were shown in the Drawings and that Applicants' amendment to Claim 1 overcame the prior art rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ditzik (U.S. 5,771,039).

With respect to the 112 rejection of Claim 7, during the Personal Interview, the Examiner alleged that the orientation of the c-axis of the phase plate required by the feature of "the at least one phase plate is arranged such that the c-axis thereof is substantially parallel to the absorption axis of the first or second polarizer that is provided on the same side of the liquid crystal layer as the at least one phase plate" as recited in Claim 7 is not possible because that orientation would destroy the refractive index ellipsoid of the phase plate.

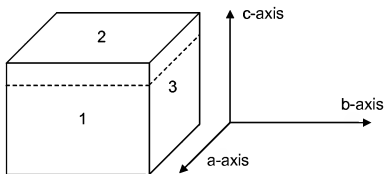
Applicants have amended Claim 7 to recite the feature of "the at least one phase plate is arranged such that the c-axis thereof is substantially ~~parallel-perpendicular~~ to the ~~absorption-transmission~~ axis of the first or second polarizer that is provided on the same side of the liquid crystal layer as the at least one phase plate." Support for this amendment is found in the last six lines of paragraph no. [0021] of page 8 of the originally filed Specification.

The refractive index ellipsoid of the phase plate is determined by the orientation of the material of the phase plate and that the c-axis of the phase plate can have any orientation, including being substantially parallel to the absorption axis of the polarizer as previously recited in Claim 7 and including being substantially perpendicular to the transmission axis of the polarizer as currently recited in Claim 7.

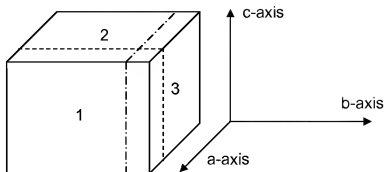


Above is a representation of a cube of phase plate material. Beside the cube of phase plate material is a coordinate system showing the orientation of the cube of phase plate material. The cube of phase plate material has an index of refraction of n_a along the a-axis, an index of refraction of n_b along the b-axis, and an index of refraction of n_c along the c-axis. A phase plate having an arbitrary c-axis can be formed by appropriately cutting the phase plate from the cube of phase plate material.

For example, as shown below, if it is desired that the c-axis be perpendicular to the principal surface of the phase plate, the cube of phase plate material will be cut along the dotted lines parallel to surface 2.



For example, as shown below, if it is desired that the c-axis be parallel to the principal surface of the phase plate, the cube of phase plate material will be cut along the dotted lines parallel to surface 1 or the dotted lines parallel to surface 3.



Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the feature of “the at least one phase plate is arranged such that the c-axis thereof is substantially perpendicular to the transmission axis of the first or second polarizer that is provided on the same side of the liquid crystal layer as the at least one phase plate” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 7 is clear and definite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

With respect to prior art rejection of Claim 1, after the Personal Interview, the Examiner called Applicants’ counsel to allege that Applicants’ amendment to Claim 1 did not overcome the prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ditzik. The Examiner alleged that the “first plane” and “second plane” recited in Claim 1 could be interpreted as planes vertical to the surface of the first polarizer and alleged that the feature of “a plurality of fibers aligned in a first direction of the first plane” recited in Claim 1 could be interpreted as the cross-sections of the plurality of fibers are aligned with the first direction of the first plane.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation and believe that it is unreasonable, Applicants have amended Claim 1 in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

First, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite the feature of “a first polarizer having a principal surface defining a second plane that is located even closer to the viewer than the first substrate is.” Applicants’ Claim 1 recites the feature of “the first polarizer is aligned such that the first plane and the second plane are substantially parallel.” Applicant respectfully submit that this amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the

first and second planes are parallel to the principal surface of the first polarizer.

Second, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite the feature of "the first substrate includes a first plastic substrate in which a length of a plurality of fibers are~~is~~ aligned in a first direction of the first plane." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the length, not the cross-section, of the fibers are aligned in the first direction of the first plane.

Thus, as similarly argued in the Amendment filed on June 28, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit that Ditzik fails to teach or suggest the features of "the first plane [defined by the first substrate] and the second plane [defined by a principal surface of the first polarizer] are substantially parallel" and "the transmission axis of the first polarizer is either substantially parallel to, or substantially perpendicular to, the first direction" as recited in Applicants' Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ditzik.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in Claim 1 of the present application. Claims 2-7 depend upon Claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 28, 2006

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